

IN SENATE  
OF  
THE UNITED STATES,

JANUARY 7, 1818.

The Committee of Claims, to whom was referred the petition of  
William Essenbeck,

**REPORT:**

The petitioner was messenger in the office of the Secretary of the Treasury, and was resident in a house, the property of the United States, near the office aforesaid, on the 24th of August, 1814, when it was destroyed in the conflagration then having occurred, together with his furniture, of the value, as he alleges, of more than three hundred dollars. The petitioner states he has been employed as messenger for more than twenty-four years, and is still retained in public service as assistant messenger, on half pay. In the case of Mr. Villard, of the Ordnance Department, and of sailing master Barry, and boatswain Hodge, of the navy yard of this place, the committee believe no allowance has been made, though several times petitioned for. In these cases the destruction was by orders from the government, and the parties were proved to have been in the discharge of their duties at the time of, and previously to the destruction of their furniture. In the case of the petitioner, the destruction was by the enemy, which is a principle, it is believed Congress have in no case thought allowable. The committee therefore report the following resolution:

*Resolved,* That the petitioner have leave to withdraw his petition.